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Claim Amendments

1. (original) A Real Time Protocol (RTP) packet handler, comprising:

a protocol processor coupled to a communications medium and receiving IP packets transmitted over the communications medium;

a central processing unit connected to the protocol processor and having operating system (OS) software executing thereon and controlling the operation thereof;

means for examining the received IP packets and headers of the received IP packets to detect RTP packets; and

an RTP packet handler module executing on the protocol processor, wherein detected RTP packets are passed to the RTP packet handler module for processing and non-RTP packets are processed by the OS software.

2. (currently amended) The RTP packet handler of claim 1, wherein the communications medium comprises an Ethernet and the protocol processor comprises a RISC processor.

3. (original) The RTP packet handler of claim 1, wherein the means for examining the received IP packets and detecting RTP packets comprises a lookup table for storing RTP packet headers.

4. (original) The RTP packet handler of claim 3, wherein the RTP packet handler module comprises a microcode routine.

SC01000AH

5. (original) A Real Time Protocol (RTP) packet handler, comprising:

a protocol processor coupled to a communications medium and receiving IP packets transmitted over the communications medium;

a central processor having operating system (OS) software executing thereon and controlling the operation thereof;

a lookup table for storing predetermined IP packet headers;

a comparator for comparing a current IP packet header with the IP packet headers stored in the lookup table, wherein when the current IP packet header matches one of the IP packet headers stored in the lookup table, a RTP packet is detected; and

an RTP packet handler module executing on the protocol processor for processing RTP packets, wherein detected RTP packets are passed to the RTP packet handler module for processing and non-RTP packets are processed by the OS software.

6. (original) The RTP packet handler of claim 5, wherein the RTP packet handler module comprises a microcode routine.

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SC01000AH

14. (New) The RTP packet handler of claim 2, wherein the protocol processor includes a dual port memory that is used for communicating with the central processing unit.
15. (New) The RTP packet handler of claim 6, wherein the protocol processor is a RISC processor.
16. (New) The RTP packet handler of claim 15, wherein the protocol processor includes a dual port memory that is used for communicating with the central processor.